

Proposed Rule Changes Permitting Encryption on the Amateur Service Bands

I oppose this plan based on the following reasons:

- 1) This would open the door for unscrupulous use by stations here and abroad to use these bands for illegal transmissions. As proposed, it would eliminate the self-policing functions by users of the amateur bands and place the burden of control with the FCC, who are already chronically short of resources that they try to control today.
- 2) This would eliminate the Amateur Radio Service from being viewed as a harmless and benign privilege offered to citizens for the purpose of advancing communications techniques, and without pecuniary interests.
- 3) This would destroy the amateur service as we know it today, and leave it vulnerable for future commercial special interests groups to advocate amateur band allocations for purposes other than existing rules allow.
- 4) Regardless of the intent, be it protection against law suits or some other rationale, this would be a profound change for amateur radio, and flies against the basic purpose for which it was enacted some 100 years ago.